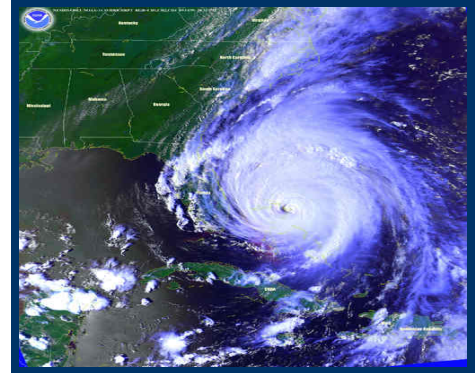




THOMAS R. SUOZZI
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

RICHARD A. ROTANZ
COMMISSIONER

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS FOR NASSAU COUNTY RESIDENTS



Thomas R. Suozzi
Nassau County Executive

A Message from the County Executive

In Nassau County, we are making concerted efforts to ensure the safety and well being of you and your family in many different ways. As part of this effort, I am pleased to provide Nassau residents with this brochure on how you and your loved ones may prepare for hurricanes. While the County does have hurricane preparedness plans, it is vital that each resident is educated on how to be prepared for and what to do should a hurricane strike. This guide will help get you started. Together, we can make Nassau County more prepared and a safer place to live.

Introduction

As Long Islanders, many of us may not feel threatened by hurricanes considering we survived Gloria, Floyd and others. However, given our location as an island left vulnerable to the Atlantic Ocean, Nassau County is very susceptible to the powerful and destructive nature of hurricanes.

Long Island has been threatened by, and at times hit with, hurricanes. And while it is estimated that 80-90% of people living in hurricane prone areas think they have experienced the worst of a major hurricane, most likely they have not. This can give people a false sense of what a major hurricane actually is or the potential damage it can cause. This is why it is important for residents to understand what a hurricane is, how hurricanes can affect our lives, and ways to better prepare in the event one strikes our area.

Hurricanes

According to the National Hurricane Center, the term "hurricane" refers to tropical cyclones occurring in the Northern Hemisphere ("typhoon" refers to tropical cyclones in the Pacific). A hurricane is described as a powerful coastal storm with sustained winds above 74 mph and is defined by its immense size, duration, and destruction. Hurricane season is from June to November.

When there is an impending hurricane, the National Weather Service (NWS) will monitor the potential storm and keep local emergency managers updated. When necessary, the NWS may issue either a hurricane watch or a hurricane warning:

<i>Hurricane Watch</i>	Issued for coastal areas when hurricane conditions are threatening to hit within 24-36 hours
<i>Hurricane Warning</i>	Issued for coastal areas when hurricane conditions are threatened to hit within 24 hours or less

Destruction of Hurricanes

Hurricanes have many after-effects including severe destruction and can cause additional hazards including:

- Wreckage from buildings and downed trees, which may cause obstructions.
- Severe flooding causing possible injury or death and property damage. Some homes may become destroyed or unlivable.
- Damaged transportation infrastructures causing roads and railroads to be impassable. Road signs and traffic lights may be down or not working making travel difficult.
- Businesses may take several days to reopen and utilities, including electricity, gas, water, and telephone service, may be inoperable for a while.
- You may have difficulty reaching police, fire, and emergency departments, doctors, pharmacies, veterinarians, homecare providers, and other health agencies.

The level and intensity of Hurricanes are categorized by the Saffir-Simpson scale and are as follows:

Category 1	Winds of 74-95 mph with damage to shrubbery and flooding on coastal roads.
Category 2	Winds of 96-110 mph with the above and considerable damage to housing.
Category 3	Winds of 111-130 mph with the above with damage to buildings. Evacuation of low-lying residences within several blocks of shoreline possibly required.
Category 4	Winds of 131-155 mph including the above and a mass evacuation of residential areas may be necessary.
Category 5	Winds greater than 155 mph including the above with more excessive damage such as overturned housing and buildings. Massive evacuation of residential areas may be necessary.

A Quick History of Hurricanes on Long Island



Courant file photo

The **New England Hurricane** (also known as the Long Island Express) hit Long Island on September 21, 1938 as a Category 3 (winds 111-130 mph) and devastated the coast of Long Island with storm surges of 10 to 12 feet and was responsible for, in total, 700 deaths, \$308 million in damage, and 63,000 people homeless between Long Island and New England. The LI Express was so powerful that it created the Shinnecock Inlet and widened the Moriches Inlet in Suffolk County.

- The **Great Atlantic Hurricane** of 1944 was a Category 3 (winds 111-130 mph)
- **Hurricanes Carol and Edna** of 1954 were both Category 3 hurricanes when they hit Long Island and Connecticut.
- **Hurricane Donna** of 1960 started as a Category 4 and hit Nassau County as a Category 3 (winds 111-130 mph).



Hurricane Gloria of 1985 began as a Category 3 hurricane when it hit Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, but was considered a Category 1 (winds 74-95 mph) when it reached Nassau County. Gloria devastated the U.S., including serious damage to Nassau County.

Being Prepared

Although we cannot prevent hurricanes, we can certainly prepare for them. Creating an emergency plan ahead of time for you and your family will help you stay organized if a hurricane strikes. Your emergency plan should include a communication system, disaster supply kit, and an alternate meeting place if your home is unsafe.

Depending on the severity of the hurricane, you may need to evacuate where you live. When instructions are given to evacuate you will be directed to a temporary, emergency refuges that will provide a safe haven for the duration of the storm. However, it is recommended that you seek refuge with a friend or family member located away from the affected area.

Survival kits should contain information and supplies for your home and to take with you to an emergency evacuation shelter. Items marked with an asterisk (*) should be included in your *Grab-N-Go* kit in case you are evacuated. FEMA and Red Cross recommend the following for your kits:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photo identification and proof of address | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Insurance policies | <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Banking and credit card information | <input type="checkbox"/> *Blankets and pillows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Emergency contact information including names and phone numbers of those in your personal support network, family members, doctors, equipment suppliers, and utility companies | <input type="checkbox"/> *Change of clothes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One-week supply of non-perishable canned/package food | <input type="checkbox"/> *Childcare items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled water (gallon/day) | <input type="checkbox"/> *Cell phone w/ spare batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manual can opener | <input type="checkbox"/> *Hard soled shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight with extra batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> *Money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic trash bags | <input type="checkbox"/> *Auxiliary medical equipment with extra batteries if necessary (i.e., oxygen, scooter battery, hearing aid) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battery operated radio/TV with extra batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Baby supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Family photos | <input type="checkbox"/> *Medical alert bracelet |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> *Pet carrier/cage with toy |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> *Food and water supply for pets |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> *Leash/harness with ID tag |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> *Medicine supply and written dosage instructions (rotate to ensure it does not expire) |

If you are evacuating to a shelter, before you leave your home:

- ☐ Secure windows and shutters with plywood for storm emergencies
- ☐ Remove all downed shrubbery and tree limbs from your property
- ☐ Secure patio furniture
- ☐ Top-off car gas tank
- ☐ Turn off electricity at main switch
- ☐ Shut gas valve at the appliance, not the main
- ☐ Let friends, relatives or neighbors know where you are going.

Protecting Pets and Animals

Pets are not allowed in shelters. Be sure to make sheltering plans for your pet(s). If you cannot make necessary provisions for your pet, you may want to contact the Pet Safe Coalition Inc. to learn about its "PetSafe" shelter program. They can be reached at 516-676-0808, or go to their web-site at www.petsafecoalition.org. Service animals are allowed in Nassau County shelters. If you bring your service animal with you, have water, food, medicines, toys and other necessities.

Special Needs

If you have any special needs, be sure to take them into consideration when developing your emergency plan for hurricanes. For more information, contact Nassau County Office of Emergency Management and request the brochure on *Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities*.

Work and School

Every workplace and school should have an evacuation plan and emergency procedures. Become familiar with evacuation plans in areas where you spend a great deal of time. You may want to store a few essential items at these locations as well.

Nassau County Contact Information

Remember - "911" Calls Are For Emergency Situations Only

TTY Relay Operator	800-421-1220
Nassau County Office of Emergency Management	(516) 573-0636
Nassau County Office of Emergency Management E-mail:	NCOEM@nassaucountyny.gov
Nassau County Main Number	(516) 571-3000
Nassau County American Red Cross	(516) 747-3500
Nassau County Police	(516) 573-7000
Town of North Hempstead	(516) 627-0590
Town of Hempstead	(516) 489-5000/538-1900
Town of Oyster Bay	(516) 677-5757
City of Glen Cove	(516) 676-2000
Glen Cove Police Department	(516) 676-1000
City of Long Beach	(516) 431-1000
City of Long Beach Police Department	(516) 431-1800

Additional Website Resources

Government/Agency

Nassau County	www.nassaucountyny.gov
Federal Emergency Management Agency	www.fema.gov
New York State Emergency Management Office	www.nysemo.state.ny.us
American Red Cross	www.redcross.org
National Organization on Disability's Emergency Preparedness Initiative	www.nod.org/emergency
Health and Welfare Council of Long Island	www.hwcli.com

Weather Related

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	www.noaa.gov
National Weather Service	www.nws.noaa.gov
National Hurricane Center	www.nhc.noaa.gov